

REMARKS

I. Introduction

New claims 5-7 are added. Therefore, by this Amendment, claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 have been examined. Claim 4 contains allowable subject matter. Claims 1-3, however, are rejected. Specifically, claims 1-2 (sic: 1-3) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0055167 to Matsuda et al. (hereinafter "Matsuda"). Applicant overcomes this ground of rejection as follows.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

As noted above, claim 4 contains allowable subject matter. In particular, claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 is rewritten in independent form, thereby placing claim 4 in condition for immediate allowance.

III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

As noted above, claims 1-3 stand rejected under § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Matsuda.

Claim 1 is amended to further clarify that the locator mechanism has a first surface that contacts a second surface of the holder support portion. In this manner, the locator mechanism locates the holder at least in a direction perpendicular to the central axis of the holder. It is respectfully submitted that Matsuda fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 1.

The Examiner alleges that Matsuda discloses a holder support portion as a base of the magnetic transfer apparatus (not shown) (Office Action: page 2, *citing* Matsuda: Fig. 12). Matsuda, however, fails to disclose or suggest any locator mechanism having a surface that contacts a surface of this base (*i.e.*, the alleged holder support portion).

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Matsuda. Consequently, claims 2 and 3 are not anticipated by Matsuda, at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. New Claims 5-7

New claims 5-7 are added to obtain an expanded scope of protection. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is introduced by way of these amendments.

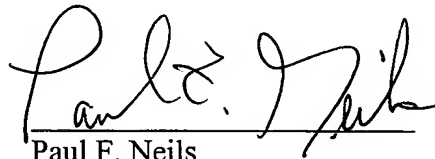
IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/715,443

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Neils", written over a horizontal line.

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 18, 2005

Attorney Docket No.: Q78467